Housing Development Activities in Delhi

1187. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJ1: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2681 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1988 and state:

(a) the other similar housing corporations in Delhi engaged in housing development; and

(b) what is the criteria followed for the allocation of housing loans and what are the reasons for discrimination if any, in allocation of loan to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) A similar agency named "Punjab National Bank Housing Finance (P) Ltd.," a wholly owned subsidiary of the Punjab National Bank, has been established on 11.11.88. The company has just started its operations.

(b) The guidelines for lending by commercial banks have been issued by Reserve Bank of India recently. The allocation for housing finance has been done by the Reserve Bank for the entire country and no statcwise allocation has been made.

Additional Grant to Andhra Pradesh Rural Housing

1188. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2834-A given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide any special additional grant or assistance to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh as a reward for its outstanding service to the rural poors; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) So, far as Housing in the context of rural poor is concerned, there is no provision for any special additional grant or assistance as reward to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Housing being a state subject, all .social housing schemes are implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations according to their requirement and plan provisions. The Union Government only provides block loans and grants without being tied to any particular head of development. However, during the 7th Five Year Plan, an allocation of Rs. 215 crores has been made for the State of Andhra Pradesh under the scheme of Allotment of House-sites-cum-Construction Assistance for the rural landless workers which is a Minimum Needs Programme. In addition, under the Central Sector Scheme of Indira Awas Yojana, allocation of Rs. 45.52 crore has been made from 1985-86 to 1988-89 for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Increase in the price of rice being distributed through P.D.S.

1189. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the increase in the price of rice for the public distribution system in fair price shops recently, and

(b) whether Government would consider that this increase in the price of rice is likely to affect the poor and down trodden badly.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) On account of the increase in the support prices of paddy for the 1988-89 kharif season, the Government of India have increased the issue prices of rice

supplied from the Central Pool to the State Governments for their public distribution systems. The end consumer prices are fixed by the State Governments. The issue prices of the Central Government carry a substantial subsidy.

Ban oh begging

1190. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govt, propose to bring about a legislation to ban begging in the country; and

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to ban begging at the declared tourists centres of the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) Beggary Prevention Acts have already been enacted by 16 States and 2 Union Territories. A recommendation was made by the Central Advisory Board on Social Defence in its meeting held on 8th September, 1987, for formulation of a Central law on prevention of beggary for the Union Territories, which may also serve as a model for the State Governments.

Reclamation of saline land

1191. SHRI SUB AS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been .prepared by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, for reclamation of saline lands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to implement such scheme in Orissa, which is badly affected by water logged saline lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) and (b) ICAR has not prepared any scheme, but during the 7th Five Year Plan a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils in the States of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh was launched with a Central outlay of Rs. 21.00 crores to reclaim an area of 1.32 lakh hectares.

Year-wise releases and area reclaimed in the 3 States is as under:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	Area reclaimed (ha.)
1986-87	395.50	27856
1987-88	200.00	29369
1988-89	386.50	28063

(c) No, Sir.

Cost over-run of Haldia Fertiliser Project

1192. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for the cost overrun in the case of Haldia Fertiliser Project; and

(b) the steps taken to complete the project without further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) The project was mechanically completed in November, 1979 after a delay of nearly three years as against the original schedule of October, 1976. As the West Bengal Electricity Board could not supply the promised power, investment had to be made in a gas turbine power plant which was commissioned in January, 1982. However, due to repetitive breakdown of major equipments, the project could not be commissioned and commissioning had to be given up in October,